



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
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GOVERNOR

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SECRETARY

May 1, 1998

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<http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/envir>

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
ON THE
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

PROJECT NAME : ANP Bellingham Energy Project
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Bellingham
PROJECT WATERSHED : Charles River
EOEA NUMBER : 11101
PROJECT PROPONENT : American National Power
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : March 25, 1998

As the Secretary of Environmental Affairs, I hereby determine that the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) submitted on this project **adequately and properly complies** with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (M.G.L. c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and with its implementing regulations (301 CMR 11.00).

The project consists of the construction of a 580 Megawatt (MW) natural gas fired combined-cycle power plant on a 125-acre parcel located off Maple Street in Bellingham in the Charles River watershed.

Water

The project will have a water withdrawal threshold of 0.25 million gallons per day (mgd) from November 15 to March 15 and a threshold of 0.10 mgd from March 15 to November 15 (an average of 0.15 mgd over the course of the year). The FEIR indicates that the Town has sufficient permitted capacity to meet project requirements as well as additional town water needs in the future. However, the Town should require the proponent to install a master meter for the facility that includes a flow recording device to indicate daily water usage. This information

should be available to the Town upon request and available to the Department of Environmental Protection's Watershed Management Act staff and Division of Water Supply as it will be necessary to show compliance for future water management and supply requests.

Results of the cumulative water use impact analysis indicate that the existing NEA Bellingham power plant does not compete with the proposed project for town water use and that the proposed IDC Bellingham project plans to rely predominantly on non-town water sources (including potentially some amount of excess capacity from Well No. 9 (NEA's source), on site bedrock wells, and/or the Milford Water Company). The report concludes therefore that no adverse effect to the Town of Bellingham water supply and the basin in which it is located is anticipated from the cumulative water use associated with the three projects. However, the Final EIR for the IDC project is required to study the potential for environmental impacts, including basin losses and transfers, from the alternative sources identified above.

Air Quality

The cumulative air quality impact analysis indicates that the combination of the proposed project, interactive sources (including proposed sources) within a 10-mile radius added to existing background conditions will not exceed Significant Impact Levels. In addition, the project will be required, as part of the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) approval process, to provide mitigation for carbon dioxide emitted from the facility.

Noise

I note that the project still does not meet DEP noise policy standards at the western property boundaries and that this should be achieved whether or not there is currently a sensitive receptor at this location. However, I leave it to the DEP-Air Quality permit review process to resolve this issue. I also note that with respect to the 45-wide clearing proposed for the natural gas pipeline interconnect, the noise analysis did not

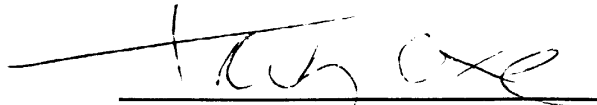
take any credit for existing vegetation, therefore the clearing should not affect the results of the noise analysis. The ENF for the pipeline project was recently submitted (EOEA #11551) which includes a proposal to reduce wetland impacts from roughly 1.6 acres (estimated in the Draft EIR) to approximately 0.75 acres.

Conclusion

Based on the information presented in the Draft EIR and the response to comments and the revised information presented in the Final EIR, I conclude that no further MEPA review is required. However, I expect that the proponent will consider carefully the attached comments, which have been forwarded to the Energy Facilities Siting Board to aid in their decision-making process.

May 1, 1998

Date


Trudy Coxé, Secretary

cc: EFSB: Attn: Dirdre Matthews, Director (w/comments)
Bellingham DPW
IDC-Bellingham

Comments received:

Jacqueline Smith (3/31/98)

William Eng (4/2/98)

DEP-CERO; Attn: Bob Bois (4/24/98)

Massachusetts Historical Commission (4/6/98)

Pickett and Miyares on behalf of the Town of Franklin (4/27/98)

TC/DV/dv